Reviewer's report

Title: Explaining variance in self-directed learning readiness of first year students in health professional programs

Version: 0 Date: 18 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Deirdre McGrath

Reviewer's report:

This study builds on existing literature on self directed learning by looking at the relationship between self directed learning readiness (SDLR) and demographics, discipline and prior educational level in a group of inter-professional first year students. A unique aspect to this study involved the examination of personality, looking specifically at whether personality trait is a predictive factor of engagement with SDLR.

The paper is well written with a logical rationale, clear aims, robust methods and well described results. The discussion and conclusion sections reflect findings that are new. The study limitations are addressed.

The authors should consider the following recommendations that are of a minor nature:

Typo - page 9, line 48 - change "competed" to "completed"

Page 12, line 56 - include "the" before "practical"

Page 13, line 29 - suggest replace 'illuminates' with "highlights"

Page 14, lines 46-48 - Suggest rewording to "but also in performance measures where behavior indicative of readiness for SDLT can be observed".
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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